

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

PLANT A SEED

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

Before Jesus's death, he told his disciples, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12:24)

Seeds are symbols of new life that will come. Through the wonder of agriculture, if a seed is planted in good soil, given adequate water, and energized by sunlight, then it will grow into a new plant. In time, with enough loving care and attention, that plant will produce seeds of its own. Nature's life cycle is a reminder to us of the way in which God brings new life: through death and resurrection.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us the opportunity to experience new life. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be transformed as the life of Christ springs up inside us. We can grow, mature, and produce seeds that will continue the spiritual life cycle of the kingdom of God.

Plant a seed today. (Parents, this is a great activity to do with your kids!) You might plant a vegetable garden or a flower garden, or you might plant an individual seed in a cup filled with good dirt. Pay special attention to this seed over the next several days. Make sure the seed receives appropriate amounts of water and sunlight. Watch the mystery unfold as new life springs up from this seed. Marvel at the holiness of this small wonder: a seed that is buried and then sprouts is fulfilling its unique, meaningful purpose in life. But the seed does not accomplish this of its own power; its life is a celebration of the One who created it and prompts its growth.

The ongoing watering and growth of one small seed can help you remember what Jesus did long after Easter Sunday. He has given new life to dozens of generations, to countless believers, each of whom repeats the miracle of Easter Sunday by having the new, holy life of Jesus grow within them, and by producing holy, life-giving seeds of their own. God is still in the business of bringing life out of what seems lifeless. Say a prayer of gratitude today for the joy and responsibility of participating with God in that work of cultivating life.